

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. For use in connection with a communication network
2 capable of communicating with a plurality of video content servers
3 storing a plurality of video files for download to a subscriber, an
4 apparatus for downloading a first selected one of said plurality of
5 video files comprising:

6 a processing system comprising a central processing unit
7 (CPU) and a memory capable of executing a browser program and a
8 video download control program; and

9 a wireless transceiver system capable of being coupled to
10 said processing system and capable of transmitting video outputs
11 and audio outputs generated by said browser program and said video
12 download control program to a television set apart from said
13 processing system and further capable of receiving user commands
14 and user data transmitted by a viewer control device operated by a
15 viewer of said television set, wherein said received user commands
16 and user data are used by said browser program and said video
17 download control program to browse said plurality of video content
18 servers and to download said first selected video file.

1 2. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said
2 browser program is capable of accessing said video content servers
3 and retrieving therefrom web page data associated with said
4 plurality of video files and displaying said web page data on said
5 television set.

1 3. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said video
2 download control program, in response to a first user command from
3 said viewer requesting a first selected one of said plurality of
4 video files, downloads said first selected video file from a first
5 one of said plurality of video content servers.

1 4. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said
2 processing system further comprises a mass storage medium capable
3 of storing said downloaded first selected video file.

1 5. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 4 wherein said
2 browser program is capable of displaying on said television a
3 plurality of video selection menus associated with said web page
4 data, a first one of said video selection menus containing a first
5 menu option associated with said first selected video file, wherein
6 said video download control program is further capable of receiving
7 from said viewer a first video selection command selecting said
8 first selected video file to be downloaded.

1 6. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said video
2 download control program, in response to receipt of said first
3 video selection message, transmits to said first video content
4 server a video request message comprising a subscriber identifier
5 associated with said video download control program, said video
6 request message capable of causing said first video content server
7 to transmit said first selected video file to said processing
8 system when said video download control program subsequently
9 transmits said subscriber identifier to said first video content
10 server.

1 7. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said video
2 request message further comprises a video identifier associated
3 with said first selected video file, wherein said first video
4 content server uses said video identifier to select said first
5 selected video file from said plurality of video files for
6 transmission to said processing system.

1 8. For use in connection with a communication network
2 capable of communicating with a plurality of video content servers
3 storing a plurality of video files for download to a subscriber, an
4 apparatus for downloading a first selected one of said plurality of
5 video files comprising:

6 a wireless transceiver system capable of being coupled to
7 a television set and capable of receiving video outputs and audio
8 outputs transmitted by a processing system apart from said
9 television set and displaying said received video outputs and audio
10 outputs on said television set, wherein said wireless transceiver
11 system is further capable of receiving user commands and user data
12 transmitted by a viewer control device operated by a viewer of said
13 television set and transmitting said received user commands and
14 user data to said processing system, wherein said received user
15 commands and user data are usable by a browser program and a video
16 download control program executed by said processing system to
17 browse said plurality of video content servers and to download said
18 first selected video file.

1 9. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said
2 browser program is capable of accessing said video content servers
3 and retrieving therefrom web page data associated with said
4 plurality of video files and displaying said web page data on said
5 television set.

1 10. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said video
2 download control program, in response to a first user command from
3 said viewer requesting a first selected one of said plurality of
4 video files, downloads said first selected video file from a first
5 one of said plurality of video content servers to a mass storage
6 medium associated with said processing system.

1 11. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said
2 browser program transmits to said wireless transceiver system a
3 plurality of video selection menus associated with said web page
4 data, a first one of said video selection menus containing a first
5 menu option associated with said first selected video file, wherein
6 said video download control program is further capable of receiving
7 from said wireless transceiver system a first video selection
8 command selecting said first selected video file to be downloaded.

1 12. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said video
2 download control program, in response to receipt of said first
3 video selection message, transmits to said first video content
4 server a video request message comprising a subscriber identifier
5 associated with said video download control program, said video
6 request message capable of causing said first video content server
7 to transmit said first selected video file to said processing
8 system when said video download control program subsequently
9 transmits said subscriber identifier to said first video content
10 server.

1 13. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said video
2 request message further comprises a video identifier associated
3 with said first selected video file, wherein said first video
4 content server uses said video identifier to select said first
5 selected video file from said plurality of video files for
6 transmission to said processing system.

1 14. For use in connection with a communication network
2 capable of communicating with a plurality of video content servers
3 storing a plurality of video files for download to a subscriber, a
4 network video player for downloading a first selected one of said
5 plurality of video files comprising:

6 a browser program stored on a computer-readable storage
7 medium capable of being executed by a processing system comprising
8 a central processing unit (CPU) and a memory; and

9 a video download control program stored on said computer-
10 readable storage medium capable of being executed by said
11 processing system,

12 wherein said browser program and said video download control
13 program are capable of transmitting video outputs and audio outputs
14 generated by said browser program and said video download control
15 program to a television set via a wireless transceiver system
16 coupled to said processing system and are further capable of
17 receiving via said wireless transceiver system user commands and
18 user data transmitted by a viewer control device operated by a
19 viewer of said television set, wherein said received user commands
20 and user data are used by said browser program and said video
21 download control program to browse said plurality of video content
22 servers and to download said first selected video file.

1 15. The network video player as set forth in Claim 14 wherein
2 said browser program is capable of accessing said video content
3 servers and retrieving therefrom web page data associated with said
4 plurality of video files and displaying said web page data on said
5 television set.

1 16. The network video player as set forth in Claim 15 wherein
2 said video download control program, in response to a first user
3 command from said viewer requesting a first selected one of said
4 plurality of video files, downloads said first selected video file
5 from a first one of said plurality of video content servers.

1 17. The network video player as set forth in Claim 16 wherein
2 said processing system further comprises a mass storage medium
3 capable of storing said downloaded first selected video file.

1 18. The network video player as set forth in Claim 17 wherein
2 said browser program is capable of displaying on said television a
3 plurality of video selection menus associated with said web page
4 data, a first one of said video selection menus containing a first
5 menu option associated with said first selected video file, wherein
6 said video download control program is further capable of receiving
7 from said viewer a first video selection command selecting said
8 first selected video file to be downloaded.

1 19. The network video player as set forth in Claim 18 wherein
2 said video download control program, in response to receipt of said
3 first video selection message, transmits to said first video
4 content server a video request message comprising a subscriber
5 identifier associated with said video download control program,
6 said video request message capable of causing said first video
7 content server to transmit said first selected video file to said
8 processing system when said video download control program
9 subsequently transmits said subscriber identifier to said first
10 video content server.

1 20. The network video player as set forth in Claim 19 wherein
2 said video request message further comprises a video identifier
3 associated with said first selected video file, wherein said first
4 video content server uses said video identifier to select said
5 first selected video file from said plurality of video files for
6 transmission to said processing system.